

AMERICAN WRITER FLIES OVER ENEMY'S CAMP

Thrilling Story of What He Saw While Six Thousand Feet in the Air.

U. S. GUNS DO MUCH DAMAGE

Puffs of Smoke and Flame in Allied Trenches Followed by Detonation and Then Clouds of Black and Brown Dirt and Smoke.

BY HENRY G. WALES.
WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, March 12 (delayed).—I have been two miles inside the German lines to-day at a height of 6,500 feet. I flew over the American lines on the Toul front, crossed "no man's land" and penetrated as far as the enemy's second line defenses.

I saw some destruction inflicted by bursts of gunfire by the American batteries during the last forty-eight hours, and even while over the German positions, I saw American shells drop there silently, then explode dustily, sending up an upheaval of brown dirt mixed with smoke.

I made the flight, which is the first made by civilians—newspaper correspondents or otherwise—over the actual fighting line since the outbreak of the war, in one of the English two-seater observation biplanes used by American observers in regulating the American artillery fire. The machine was piloted by a French subaltern who usually takes up American observers. The only difference was that the twin machine guns were not equipped for my trip as they are when a combination of observer and machine gunner goes up.

It was just after 4 o'clock sunlight and the weather was excellent and clear. For observation purposes, the machine was sent up to the height of 6,500 feet, just my head showed, and I looked squarely at the pilot's cranium just showing in front of me.

We raced down the field and picked up a mile a minute, then rose softly. The first I knew was that the hangars and buildings were dropping below. We circled the field a while, banking steeply on turns so as to make height, as the field is very near the front and an airplane must be high to cross the line, otherwise it is dangerous business.

TRAVELS THROUGH AIR AT TWO MILES A MINUTE

Mounting to 6,000 feet we started toward the front, traversing roads and villages. I knew well from passing through them daily in the German passenger automobile. As we gained height and gathering speed, the latter now being two miles a minute, the wind pressure became greater, and it seemed as though we were standing stock still.

Gazing through the glass floor plates at the objects on the earth, it seemed as if we were barely creeping along, just making headway against some tagging gale, though in reality there was scarcely any breeze. But gradually we passed landmark after landmark, I knew, and I realized we were really moving fast.

Then, far to the right, I saw another French airplane at about the same level, also apparently stationary, although in reality moving as fast as we were. We were so far above the earth's surface, one lost all sense of movement except that the air was rushing past filling the lungs with great gasps of oxygen.

Scrutinizing the landscape below, I passed the farthest American army zone, which is out of danger except from long range guns. Then, gradually the war zone crept in, almost imperceptibly.

The first thing I noticed were the tall, thin shadows invariably cast even by the most skillfully arranged camouflage. Then I noticed how mere man-made camouflage can't copy nature exactly, no matter how hard the effort. All through this zone were defensive positions such as exist along the front on both sides of the line. Soon, however, I saw the commencement of the communication trenches.

DESTRUCTION OF FORTY-TWO MONTHS OF WAR IS SEEN

Then, instead of villages, I saw utterly ruined, shell-torn stone houses, the result of forty-two months of intermittent artillery fire. Always, however, the wonderful French highways stretched clear and clean, ribbon-like, under the eye, so I could tell exactly where I was by their configuration from the pilot's map I carried. It was the roads that showed first when we approached the actual fighting zone. There the roads vanished and lost their perceptibility, vanished like ribbons fraying, tiny strands, at the end.

Thoroughfares gradually lost themselves in a wide, bare strip of yellowish brown marking "no man's land" between the opposing trenches. Through powerful binoculars I looked down upon a maze of American trenches interwinding and interlocking, seated a considerable depth in the earth, behind a tiny, hair-like line that marked the advanced firing trenches. Then I could dimly make out through the lenses little even rows, marking the posts supporting the barbed-wire entanglements.

GROUND RESEMBLED BEACH WITH MANY FOOTPRINTS

All this was so shell-pitted that it resembled the footprints of a thousand dogs in the sand on some seashore.

"No man's land" as far as one could see, was barren, empty, upturn, yet with certain landmarks still left, such as a shell-tattered stone farmhouse and an old cow stable whose walls were still standing at a feeble height.

These places are favorite rendezvous for night patrols. Then I passed over the advanced German line. It looked exactly like the American line, with the same endless scroll of trenches. We steered to the left, and then saw the spot where the American bombardment prepared the way for yesterday morning's raid. The effects of the latest rain of shells also were plainly visible, some craters showing up holder and deeper than others which had been created in former days. Passing over the first networks of German trenches, I noticed communal-gating positions leading back toward the second observation position. There, too, I saw cunningly camouflaged gun pits, and looking at my map found

The Weather

(Furnished by U. S. Weather Bureau.)

Forecast: Virginia—Fair Saturday; Sunday fair warmer interior.
North Carolina—Fair Saturday; Sunday fair, warmer interior.

Local Temperature.
12 noon temperature..... 53
3 P. M. temperature..... 55
Maximum temperature to 8 P. M. 55
Minimum temperature to 8 P. M. 41
Mean temperature..... 50
Normal temperature..... 46
Excess in temperature..... 4
Excess in temperature since March 1..... 115
Accumulated deficiency since January 1..... 121

Local Rainfall.
Rainfall last twelve hours..... None
Total rainfall last four hours..... .13
Excess in rainfall since March 1..... 1.02
Excess in rainfall since January 1..... 1.78

Local Barometer Readings.
8 A. M. 29.85
3 P. M. 29.92

Local Observations at 8 P. M.
Temperature, 44; humidity, 35; wind, direction, north; wind, velocity, 12 miles; weather, clear.

CONDITIONS IN IMPORTANT CITIES.

Place.	8 P. M. High.	Low.	Weather.
Ashville	40	36	Clear
Atlanta	46	36	Clear
Atlantic City	48	36	Clear
Baltimore	48	36	Clear
Buffalo	48	36	Clear
Charlotte	48	36	Clear
Chicago	48	36	Clear
Cincinnati	48	36	Clear
Cleveland	48	36	Clear
Galveston	48	36	Clear
Hartford	48	36	Clear
Houston	48	36	Clear
Jacksonville	48	36	Clear
Louisville	48	36	Clear
Memphis	48	36	Clear
New Orleans	48	36	Clear
New York	48	36	Clear
Philadelphia	48	36	Clear
Pittsburgh	48	36	Clear
Raleigh	48	36	Clear
St. Louis	48	36	Clear
San Francisco	48	36	Clear
Savannah	48	36	Clear
Tampa	48	36	Clear
Washington	48	36	Clear
Wichita	48	36	Clear
Wilmington	48	36	Clear

MINIATURE ALMANAC.

March 16, 1918.

Sun sets..... 6:21 Morning..... 8:55

Sun rises..... 6:17 Evening..... 8:52

then carefully noted for our gunners' information.

The buildings behind the enemy's lines were crumbling and shot-torn—the same as those behind our own lines, and the roads began again from nothing, assuming shape and form and developing into fine highways a little way further in.

PUFFS OF WHITE SMOKE

SHOW ENEMY'S FIRE
Puffs of white smoke showed that our machine was being fired at by high angle anti-aircraft guns, but we were not hit. We continued inward, not straight ahead, but obliquely, so we could cover and "double back" the moment hostile fighting planes appeared.

We saw a couple of German two-seater observing machines regulating German artillery fire. They were about our level but they minded their own business, and we paid no attention to them.

Gazing earthward I saw shells coughed up from the throats of American guns far behind, saw them plump into the enemy's position, burst, and throw up clouds of black and brown dirt and smoke.

Once, when we were furthest inside the enemy lines I looked back toward the German front line and saw several flashes which I afterwards learned were from trench mortars throwing over "flying pigs" toward the American lines. In all that journey I had not seen a single moving human being, even through my glasses, despite the fact that the subterranean positions beneath teemed with armies of fighting men. And in all advanced positions on both sides I did not see a single moving vehicle, although far off back of the German lines I did see dust clouds thrown up by convoys on the move. We turned slightly, tilting steeply on one wind—and soared homeward. The pilot signaled to me to look down. Staring through the floor glass I saw another French machine, much lower than we were. Almost at the same time a dull thud penetrated the terrific noise of the whirling motor, and the pilot motioned me again.

A fluffy, white cloudlet of anti-aircraft shrapnel—enemy gunners were trying to lay the range of our command beneath.

INAUDIBLE THUDS FOLLOWED

BY FLUFFY SHRAPNEL
There were a dozen almost inaudible thuds, and I saw a string of these fluffy shrapnel cloudlets hanging in the air along the pathway the French machine below had been taking. But he was far away—he "wingslipped"—turned and escaped entirely. Although we were less than 5,000 feet up in this region, the enemy anti-aircraft gunners did not choose us for a target, and we recessed "no man's land."

Again passing over the American battery positions I saw ominous flashes from the gun breeches, but did not hear a shot fired and did not hear a shell whistling through the air. We retraced our way, apparently not moving, and fighting in the teeth of a howling wind while the terrain below slipped by imperceptibly. We passed over an American observation balloon and finally reached the aviation field, alighting at eighty miles an hour.

I looked at my watch, we had been gone thirty-five minutes, but it seemed ages, because of the persistent idea that we had been battling against a head-on gale continually.

"Did you see that German single seater above us just before we turned back?" asked the subaltern pilot, hopping from his seat.

"I think he saw we did not have a machine gun, and thought us easy prey, as he was on his way home and then turned and chased us a little way. Otherwise I would have taken you over to another sector and shown you the German positions there with the big guns mounted."

Dies in Fall at Key West.
WASHINGTON, March 15.—The death in a fall at Key West March 13 of Roger Conant Perkins, of Manchester, Vt., a naval aviation student, was announced to-day by the Navy Department.

Municipalities League to Meet.
The League of Virginia Municipalities will meet in Richmond on March 22 and 23. This meeting was decided upon after a conference between E. R. Fuller, president of the league, and other members of the organization.

LOCALIZATION SYSTEM BOUND TO DISAPPEAR

Exigencies of War Will Mean General Intermingling of Troops From All States.

LOSE NEIGHBORHOOD NATURE

Welding of Expeditionary Forces Into Homogeneous Unit Already Under Way—Separate Replacement Divisions to Be Formed.

(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, March 15.—The neighborhood character of National Army and National Guard units is certain to vanish as the war progresses, in the opinion of army officials. British and French forces already have undergone the process, and it now is being felt by American front-line divisions as the direct result of the three-line system of defense, held indispensable by General Pershing and the allied chiefs to keep the front line at full fighting strength.

Plans projected by the general staff for erecting a replacement system to handle nearly 250,000 men this year, it is understood, are founded on acceptance of the fact that localization cannot be maintained. Eventually, it is believed that enlisted men of the regulars, National Army and National Guard will be intermingled throughout all divisions at the front.

CONGRESS PROPOSED

LOCALIZATION SYSTEM

Congress expressed a decided preference for localization of the National Army in the selective service law, but many officers have maintained insistently that it would be impossible to handle the army except as one great unit. The facts promise to bear out that view, it is said, and with the replacement of casualties, the welding of expeditionary forces into one homogeneous unit has already begun.

In an opinion rendered last September, Acting Judge-Advocate-General Ansell sustained absolutely the legal right of the department to transfer officers and men among the regulars, National Army and National Guard as found necessary.

The six division corps organization adopted by General Pershing was devised to give a corps commander a two-division front to lead, backed up by two divisions on the second line and two divisions on the third line. At intervals these divisions relieve each other, each serving its allotted time in each of the three lines. As casualties occur in the front-line divisions, men are drawn from second-line divisions and second-line units fill up immediately from third-line divisions. The casualties given preliminary training in the United States and shipped over on a regular schedule, are fed into the third-line division, and by the time they reach the front-line trenches are ready for the battle.

WILL FORM REPLACEMENT DIVISIONS IN AMERICA

Out of this situation has grown the plan to form separate replacement divisions in the United States, where the arm of the service for which preliminary training is not the State from which the soldiers will be the factor governing mobilization.

Infantrymen would all be trained at one camp, artillerymen at another, machine gunners at another, and so on. Men who had been under training six months would be available for assignment to replacement detachments bound abroad. Their places would be taken by new drafted men or by volunteers gathered through the recruiting service. That would extend the replacement system back to the civilian population, in orderly, workable fashion, it is argued.

FOOD ADMINISTRATOR PROBES CORN MARKET

Speculative and Cash Situation on Chicago Board Given Thorough Investigation.

BY JOSEPH E. PRITCHARD.

CHICAGO, March 15.—John J. Stream, an official of the food administration arrived here from Washington to-day and held a conference with representative grain men who were here from the various markets to thresh out the entire speculative and cash situation which has become more or less congested during the past few months. The sense of the meeting was that speculation must be curbed and that the speculative grades must be lowered.

No. 3 white oats will be established as the commercial grade, and No. 4 corn as the speculative grade in that grade. Each one of the boards of trade represented at the conference will take a vote on the proposed changes submitted to Mr. Stream and the entire matter will then be taken up by the food administration. It will be some time before the proposed changes are brought to a head and business in the various exchanges is being done under the new regulations.

MITTELDORFER'S

217 EAST BROAD STREET.

Open Saturday from 9 A. M. to 7 P. M.

WAISTS,

\$2.98

For New Stripe Crepe Waists; \$4.00 Value.

Ladies' Lisle

Hosiery,

25c

For Ladies' 75c Lisle Hose,

black, white, gray and Russian calf.

For Children's Ribbed

Hose, Black, White, Tan,

Blue or Pink; 35c and 39c

value. Mitteldorfer's specials.

Real Estate Summary

9 Chanery transfers.....\$15,000 00
1 Chanery transfer..... 650 00
9 Chanery trust deeds..... 21,305 00
9 Chanery release deeds..... 13,300 33
1 Housing release deed..... 2,650 00
1 building permits.....\$30,870 00

CHANCERY TRANSFERS.

R. L. Rogers to Daisy O. Young 30x 175 feet, known as 1112 West Leigh Street, March 13, 1918; \$200.

H. C. Brown et ux. to Catherine Bahen 1-1/2x120 feet south side Grove Avenue, 50 feet west of Harvie Street, November 26, 1917; tax, 50 cents; \$5.

Mary D. Bagley et ux. to H. S. Wallerstein 21 feet 8-1/2 inches by 150 feet, known as 2710 East Franklin Street, January 1, 1918; tax, \$5; \$10.

G. A. Wicker et ux. to Elizabeth Gwin 21-1/2x120 feet, known as 2319 Kensington Avenue, March 12, 1918; tax, \$5; \$10.

G. A. Carter to R. L. Wilkinson 23-1/2x123 feet, east line Twenty-seventh Street, 150 feet north of P Street, February 28, 1918; \$2,100.

H. M. and G. L. Seay to Martha Seay et ux. 23-1/2 feet west line Rosewood Street, 20 feet south of Chaffin Street, January 26, 1918; tax, \$1; \$5.

Martha Seay et ux. to William Able 23-1/2 feet west line Harrison Street, 20 feet south of Chaffin Street, March 14, 1918; \$1,200.

J. P. Lea, trustee, to National State and City Bank of Richmond, lot 21, Block E, Chamberlayne Place, February 27, 1918; \$500.

Mattie C. Braxton et ux. to H. L. Thompson et ux. 15-3/4 feet west line Orange Street, 23-1/2 feet south of Orange Street, February 3, 1918; \$150.

HEMLOCK TRANSFER.

Bron Kelly et ux. to E. D. Boschen 22 acres land, 11-1/2 miles west of Glen Allen, bounded on the north and east by property of Mary A. Clark, on the south by property of J. L. Thubert, and on the west by property of E. J. Trevellett, October 6, 1917; tax, \$1; \$10.

CHANCERY TRUST DEEDS.

W. T. Ryan et ux. to J. A. Coke, Jr., trustee, 50x119 feet, known as 2001 Grace Street, March 5, 1918; \$8,500.

W. L. Wills to H. S. Hutzler and R. J. Levy, trustees, 91 feet 2-1/4 inches irregular depth, known as 315 Stuart Road, March 5, 1918; \$8,000.

W. L. Wills to H. S. Hutzler and R. J. Levy, trustees, lots 1 and 2, Block B, Battery Court, March 4, 1918; \$1,650.

H. L. Thompson et ux. to R. O. Bland, trustee, 15-3/4 feet west side St. John Street, 23-1/2 feet south of Orange Street, February 3, 1918; \$250.

P. D. Young to Rose & Rose, trustees, 30x175 feet, known as 112 West Leigh Street, March 13, 1918; \$375.

R. L. Winkler et ux. to Pollard & Bagby, Incorporated, trustees, 23-1/2x133 feet, known as 1007 North Twenty-seventh Street, March 11, 1918; \$1,550.

L. C. Davis et ux. to J. L. Pollard & Bagby, Incorporated, trustees, 17-1/2x124 feet, known as 1819 West Cary Street, March 8, 1918; \$1,150.

Isaac Caplan et ux. to C. G. Satterfield, trustee, 41 feet 2-1/2 inches by 150 feet, known as 210 South Second Street, March 13, 1918; \$400.

L. C. Davis et ux. to J. L. Pollard & Bagby, Incorporated, trustees, lots 1 to 13, inclusive, Block D, Highland Springs, March 14, 1918; \$1,500.

CHANCERY RELEASE DEEDS.

W. P. Redd, trustee, to Isaac Caplan 14-1/2x282 feet, known as 100 and 102 East Byrd Street, March 6, 1918; \$1,000.

W. P. Redd, trustee, to Fannie H. Taylor 14-1/2x282 feet, known as 100 and 102 East Byrd Street, March 6, 1918; \$500.

C. L. Denoon, trustee, to J. E. Donahoe 100x170 feet south side Hanover Avenue from Lafayette Avenue to Riverdale Street, March 13, 1918; \$4,213.

W. P. Redd, trustee, to W. A. Clarke 15-3/4 feet, known as 1204 West Moore Street, March 12, 1918; \$100.

E. Sutherland et ux. trustees, to Albert Chisteller 25x124 feet south line Cary Street, 150 feet east of Ritchie Street, March 13, 1918; \$2,400.

Sutton & Denoon, trustees, to Jean G. Denoon 54x179-1/4 feet northwest corner Grove Avenue and Cedar Street, February 27, 1918; \$1,600.

corner Grove Avenue and Cedar Street, February 27, 1918; \$1,600.

HUSTINGS RELEASE DEED.

R. St. P. Smith, trustee, to John A. Lindsell lot 1, Block 2, Eastern Hill Park Annex, March 11, 1918; \$2,500.

BUILDING PERMITS.

The following licenses were issued yesterday by the Building Inspector's office:

Henry Harris, to erect brick garage at 2025 Park Avenue, to cost \$270.

J. W. Crump, to erect two brick dwellings southeast corner Leigh and Adams Streets, to cost \$1,500.

Max E. Ruchmund, to erect brick apartment west side of Boulevard between Taylor and Cary Streets, to cost \$26,000.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY GOOD.

BUT DELIVERIES ARE POOR

Railway Situation Shows Some Improvement, According to

Headquarters.

NEW YORK, March 15.—Broadstreet to-morrow will say:

Trade, industry and farm work alike continue to grow, but, as transportation, inadequate complaints regarding poor deliveries are widespread. Nevertheless, the railway situation shows some betterment, inland water traffic is freer, industrial output has been enlarged, trade in the larger essential lines show expansion and, as all conditions are favorable, while wages are high with employment better than ever, optimism is in evidence. Country merchants, fearing scarcity of goods or still higher prices, are buying for cash account, and dealers in the smaller towns are experiencing a revival in trade, thanks to industrial activity, congested deliveries and perhaps because of the tax on passenger fares.

The government, as for some time past, is the largest single factor in the general buying movement, and over everything might be written the heading that this superactivity is due to war preparations which extend out to a myriad of lines. Aside from buying for the militant efforts of the country, there is an excellent demand for military as well as for textiles, prices for which continue to rise and at the same time broader preparations for same time stimulate business in seeds and agricultural implements. Trade in shoes in the East is inactive, and the market for leather presents a weak undertone.

Weekly bank clearings, \$5,866,282,000.

525 E. Broad - Randolph 3066

PRICES GENERALLY HELD STEADY IN COTTON MARKET

Estimates Place Number of Bales for Foreign Shipment at About Five Million.

NEW YORK, March 15.—The cotton market was comparatively quiet during the last week, but except for moderate reactions, prices held generally steady, closing to-night within some thirty-five or forty-five points of the season's high records. There has been considerable discussion of probable end-season statistics, which has developed rather marked differences of opinion, owing largely to the uncertainty of exports, estimates of which range from about 1,250,000 to 2,250,000 bales. Estimates of domestic mill consumption also vary, though not so widely, and the trade is waiting for the final ginning figures of next Wednesday to settle any difference of opinion as to the extent of available supplies.

One of the features of the week has been a gradual transfer of interest from old to new crop positions. This led to some narrowing of the difference between summer and fall months, with fresh buying orders showing a preference for October, while there was selling of both July and May against purchases of late deliveries.

Toward the close of the week there was renewed coverings by March shorts, and some buying of May against spinners' calling, which, combined with the continued steadiness of the spot situation, gave near months a relatively steady tone.

There were reports early in the week that low-grade cotton was selling at prices in the South which would permit of shipments here for delivery in late April and early May, but no such reports have been found, but Southern selling has not been sufficiently in evidence to indicate any real weakness in that quarter.

McCall Magazine for 49c

Subscriptions taken at our Pattern Department.

McCall Magazine for 49c

Subscriptions taken at our Pattern Department.

McCall Magazine for 49c

Subscriptions taken at our Pattern Department.

McCall Magazine for 49c

Subscriptions taken at our Pattern Department.

McCall Magazine for 49c

Subscriptions taken at our Pattern Department.

McCall Magazine for 49c

Subscriptions taken at our Pattern Department.

McCall Magazine for 49c